

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEWT, RO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED WHEAT BARTER WITH ROMANIA: VISIT OF
G.R. HAMBLIN

1. GEORGE R. HAMBLIN, MANAGING TRUSTEE OF AMERICAN
BARTER TRADE EXPORT CORPORATION OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON,
PLANS TO ARRIVE IN BUCHAREST SEPTEMBER 28 VIA PAN AM FOR
TALKS WITH ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN-TRADE OFFICIALS.
THE AMERICAN BARTER TRADE EXPORT CORP. IS A WEBB-POMERENE
ASSOCIATION DEALING IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

2. HAMBLIN TOLD DEPARTMENT OFFICER THAT HIS VISIT COMES
AT INVITATION OF ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
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AGROEXPORT. HE SAID ROMANIANS HAVE PROPOSED BARTER

TRANSACTION INVOLVING AN EXCHANGE OF US WHEAT FOR ROMANIAN UREA AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. ROMANIANS HAVE INDICATED A DESIRE TO ACQUIRE AS MUCH AS 2.7 MILLION METRIC TONS OF US DURHAM RED HEART WHEAT OVER THE NEXT YEAR, AND HAVE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT CONTRACT AUTHORIZE TRANSSHIPMENT OF WHEAT BY ROMANIA TO OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS, INCLUDING USSR.

3. DEPARTMENT OFFICER TOLD HAMBLIN THAT STATE DOES NOT OBJECT TO SUCH A TRANSACTION. HE INFORMED HAMBLIN OF PROBLEMS SURROUNDING MFN TREATMENT FOR ROMANIAN PRODUCTS AND OF NEED TO OBTAIN FEA IMPORT LICENSES FOR CERTAIN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. HE URGED HAMBLIN TO CALL ON EMBASSY IN BUCHAREST.

4. HAMBLIN IS A PARAPLEGIC AND MUST BE STRETCHER-BORNE. ALTHOUGH HE WAS ASSURED THAT ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES WILL MAKE ALL NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS ARRIVAL, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO ASSIST.

5. COMMENT. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO TRANSSHIP IS WITHOUT PRECEDENT. POTENTIAL SIZE OF TRANSACTION IS ALSO REMARKABLE. ANY FURTHER INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN SUPPLY WOULD BE APPRECIATED. ROBINSON

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